

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/680,479

Examiner

Truc T. Chuong

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO, HIDEHIRO

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/05/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-4, 8-12, 16-23, and 25-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brian K. Shelton on 09/28/05.

2. The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A portable terminal system comprising:

a server which stores text content and help content, wherein the help content includes specific information regarding how to retrieve or use the text content; and

a portable terminal comprising a text browser which accesses and processes the text content stored in said server, and a help browser which processes the help content stored in said server,

wherein at least one hardware function of the portable terminal is automatically controlled based on the processed help content in order to assist the user in utilizing the text content,

wherein said portable terminal further comprises a plurality of switch keys for use in operations for using said text content, and a switch-key controlling means for individually setting each of said plurality of switch keys to either an effective state or an ineffective state based on said help content.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): A portable terminal system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said portable terminal further comprises a judging means for determining whether a message which is received by the portable terminal is text content or help content, wherein said judging means activates the text browser if the message is determined to be text content and activates the help browser if the message is determined to be help content.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A portable terminal system as claimed in claim 3 wherein[[;]] said help browser outputs said help contents as any one of text, voice, static images, and moving images.

Claims 5-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A portable terminal system as claimed in ~~claim 7~~claim 1 wherein[[;]] if said switch keys are set to the effective state by the switch-key controlling means, said switch-key controlling means illuminates light emitting sections corresponding to the switch keys which are set to the effective state.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A portable terminal system as claimed in ~~claim 7~~claim 1 wherein[[;]] if said switch keys are set to the effective state by the switch-key controlling means,

Art Unit: 2179

said switch-key controlling means vibrates operation buttons for those switch keys which are set to the effective state.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A portable terminal comprising:

a text browser which accesses and processes text content, wherein the text content which is processed is displayed at a display section of the portable terminal; and

a help browser which processes help content, wherein the help content includes specific information regarding how to retrieve or use the text content;

a plurality of switch keys for use in operations for using said text content; and

a switch-key controlling means for individually setting each of said plurality of switch keys to either an effective state or an ineffective state based on said help content,

wherein at least one hardware function of the portable terminal is automatically controlled based on the processed help content in order to assist a user in utilizing the text content.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A portable terminal as claimed in claim 10 further comprising:

a judging means for determining whether a message which is received by the portable terminal is text content or help content, wherein the judging means activates the text browser if the message is determined to be text content and activates the help browser if the message is determined to be help content.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A portable terminal as claimed in claim 11 wherein;
said help browser outputs said help contents as at least one of text, voice, static images
and moving images.

Claims 13-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): A portable terminal as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 10
wherein[[:]] if said switch-keys are set to the effective state by the switch-key controlling means,
said switch-key controlling means illuminates light emitting sections corresponding to the switch
keys which are set to the effective state.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A portable terminal as claimed in ~~claim 15~~claim 10
wherein[[:]] if said switch-keys are set to the effective state by the switch-key controlling means,
said switch-key controlling means vibrates operation buttons for those switch keys which are set
to the effective state.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of controlling a portable terminal comprising:
determining whether a message which is received by a portable terminal is text content or
help content; and
activating either a text browser, which processes the text content, if the message is
determined to be text content, wherein the text content is displayed at a display section of the
portable terminal, or a help browser, which processes the help content, if the message is

Art Unit: 2179

determined to be help content, wherein the help content includes information regarding how to retrieve or use the text content,

wherein at least one hardware function of the portable terminal is automatically controlled based on the processed help content in order to assist a user in utilizing the text content, and

wherein a plurality of switch keys are provided for use in operations for using said text content and each of said plurality of switch keys are individually set to either an effective state or an ineffective state based on said help content.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of controlling a portable terminal as claimed in claim 18 wherein[[:]] in said step of activating a text browser or a help browser, said help contents are outputted as at least one of text, voice, static images and moving images.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a portable terminal, said program comprising:

determining whether a message which is received by the portable terminal is text content or help content; and

activating either a text browser, which processes the text content, if the message is determined to be text content, wherein the text content is displayed at a display section of the portable terminal, or a help browser, which processes the help content, if the message is determined to be help content, wherein the help content includes information regarding how to use or retrieve the help content,

Art Unit: 2179

wherein at least one hardware function of the portable terminal is automatically controlled based on the processed help content in order to assist a user in utilizing the text content, and

wherein a plurality of switch keys are provided for use in operations for using said text content and each of said plurality of switch keys are individually set to either an effective state or an ineffective state based on said help content.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a portable terminal as claimed in claim 20 wherein[[:]] in said step of activating a text browser or a help browser, said help contents are outputted as at least one of text, voice, static images and moving images.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A portable terminal communication system comprising:
an information source server connected to a wireline network and operable to separately store target content and help content, wherein the help content is ancillary to the target content and is provided to assist in retrieval of the target content;

a wireless device connected to a wireless network and operable to receive the target content and the help content in respective target and help browsers; and

a radio gateway server connected to both the wireline network and the wireless network and operable to communicate with said information source server through the wireline network and communicate with said wireless device through the wireless network,

wherein at least one hardware function of the wireless device is automatically controlled based on the help content which is received to enable a user of the wireless device to assist a user in utilizing the target content, and

wherein said wireless devices comprises a plurality of switch keys for use in operations for using said target content and a judgment device which determines whether received data is target content or help content and further renders the switch-keys operable or inoperable based on the determination.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A portable terminal communication system as claimed in claim 22, wherein ~~the wireless device comprises the~~ switch-keys of the wireless device are specifically designated for operation in response to the help content.

Claim 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (currently amended): A portable terminal communication system as claimed in ~~claim 24~~ claim 21, wherein switch-keys that have been rendered operable by the judgment device are lit-up.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A portable terminal communication system as claimed in ~~claim 24~~ claim 21, wherein switch-keys that have been rendered operable by the judgment device are controlled to vibrate.

Art Unit: 2179

Claim 27 (currently amended): A portable device comprising:

a radio communication port which interfaces with a radio gateway server through a wireless network and receive and segregate target data and help data;

a target display processor which receives the target data, processes the target data and displays the target data on a target data display; and

a help display processor which receives the help data, process the help data and display the help data, wherein the help data is exclusively for assisting a user in retrieval of the target data,

a plurality of switch keys for use in operations for using said target content; and

a judgment device which determines whether received data is target content or help content and further renders the switch-keys operable or inoperable based on the determination,

wherein at least one hardware function of the portable terminal is automatically controlled based on the processed help data in order to assist a user in utilizing the target content.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A portable device as claimed in claim 27 further comprising:

~~a plurality of switch keys which communicate responses from a user of the portable device; and~~

a vibrator which vibrates only selected switch-keys, wherein said selected switch keys are selected based on said help data.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A portable device as claimed in claim 27 further comprising:

~~a plurality of switch keys which communicates responses from a user of the portable device; and~~

a lighting device which illuminates only selected switch-keys, wherein said selected switch keys are selected based on said help data.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A portable terminal system as recited in claim 1, wherein said portable terminal is a mobile telephone.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A portable terminal system as recited in claim 1 wherein said portable terminal is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

Claim 32 (previously presented): A portable terminal system as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one hardware function includes one or more of vibrating certain portions of the portable terminal, illuminating certain portions of the portable terminal, displaying certain text or graphic messages on a display portion of the portable terminal, playing certain audible sounds on the portable terminal, and either activating or inactivating certain portions of the portable terminal.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-4, 8-12, 16-23, and 25-32 are allowed.

Art Unit: 2179

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in combination with other claim limitations:

Independent claims 1, 10, 18, 20, 22, and 27, when considered as a whole, are allowable over the Prior Art of record. Specifically, the Prior Art of record fails to teach the portable terminal system having the server which stores text content and help content, wherein the help content includes specific information regarding how to retrieve or user the text content, the portable terminal comprising the text browser which accesses and processes the text content stored in the server, the help browser which processes the help content stored in the server wherein at least on hardware of the portable terminal is automatically controlled based on the processed help content in order to assist the user in utilizing the text content wherein the portable terminal further comprises the plurality of switch keys for use in operations for using the text content, and the switch-key controlling for individually setting each of the plurality of switch keys to either effective state or an ineffective state based on the help content.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. Chuong whose telephone number is 571-272-4134. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

Art Unit: 2179

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. Chuong

10/11/05

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER